

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (New): A method for locating and delivering energy to a target tissue comprising:

penetrating through tissue at a first site using a distal portion of a locating and energy delivery device to access a target tissue, wherein the locating and energy delivery device comprises at least one locator element having a curved distal end and a source of energy coupled to the at least one locator element;

placing the at least one locator element adjacent to the target tissue;

deploying the at least one locator element such that the curved distal end surrounds the target tissue; and

delivering energy to the target tissue by turning on the source of energy coupled to the locator element.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 16 wherein the energy is selected from the group consisting of electrical, thermal, acoustic, and mechanical.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 17 wherein the energy is either RF energy or microwave energy.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of placing the at least one locator element adjacent to the target tissue further comprises the use of guidance.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 19 wherein the guidance consists of the group consisting of x-ray guidance, stereotactic guidance, ultrasonic guidance, and magnetic resonance imaging.

Claim 21(New): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of deploying the at least one locator element further comprises delivering energy to the curved distal end by turning on the source of energy coupled to the locator element.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21 wherein the energy is selected from the group consisting of electrical, thermal, acoustic, and mechanical.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 22 wherein the energy is RF energy.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 16 wherein the curved distal end comprises a curved distal tip, and wherein the step of deploying the at least one locator element further comprises delivering energy to the distal end by turning on the source of energy coupled to the locator element.

Claim 25 (New): A device adapted to encircle and apply energy to a target tissue comprising:

at least one element having a curved distal end, wherein a source of energy is coupled to the element and wherein the curved distal end is configured to encircle the target tissue.

Claim 26 (New): The device of claim 25 wherein the energy is selected from the group consisting of electrical, thermal, acoustic, and mechanical.

Claim 27 (New): The device of claim 26 wherein the energy is either RF energy or microwave energy.

Claim 28 (New): The device of claim 25 wherein the curved distal end further comprises a distal tip.

Claim 29 (New): The device of claim 28 wherein the distal tip is coupled to a source of energy.

Claim 30 (New): The device of claim 29 wherein the energy is selected from the group consisting of electrical, thermal, acoustic, and mechanical.

Claim 31 (New): A device adapted to locate, surround, and apply energy to a target tissue comprising:

at least one locator element having a curved distal end, wherein a source of energy is coupled to the locator element and wherein the curved distal end is configured to surround the target tissue.

Claim 32 (New): The device of claim 31 wherein the energy is selected from the group consisting of electrical, thermal, acoustic, and mechanical.

Claim 33 (New): The device of claim 32 wherein the energy is either RF energy or microwave energy.